CONFIDENTIAL

TL 2393

Geneva, 8 March 1988

Jan Martenson,
Under Secretary-General for Human Rights,
Centre for Human Rights,
Palais des Nations,
CH-1211 Geneva

Dear Mr Martenson,

I escaped from East Timor in October 1987, and after a long journey through Indonesia and Macau, I reached Portugal at the end of February this year. I then made my way straight to Geneva in order to give my testimony about my own bitter experiences to the UN Commission on Human Rights. I enclose a copy of my testimony for your information.

At the end of my statement, I requested the Commission to take action to protect my family in East Timor from possible reprisals by the Indonesian Government because of my testimony. I am writing now to ask you, most respectfully, to take whatever action possible to ensure that no relative of mine is in any way harmed because of my actions here in Geneva.

For your information, the members of my family who might be harmed are as follows:

In Baucau/Bahu-Macaday

1. My father, Joaquim da Costa.
2. My mother, Matilde da Costa Belo.
3. My brother, Sebastiao da Costa and family.
4. My sister, Guilhermina da Costa and family.
5. My sister, Rosa da Costa and family.

In Baucau-Bucoly

6. My sister Palmira da Costa S. Boavida and family

In Dili, Kampung Baru 'B'/Comoro

7. My cousin, Abel Costa F. Xīmenes and family.

In Jakarta, at the Dryarkara Faculty of Philosophy

8. My cousin, Egas da Costa Freitas.

I would be most grateful for your assurance that the United Nations is able to provide the necessary protection and to make the best endeavours to keep informed of the circumstances of my relatives.

Yours sincerely,

Cristiano da Costa,
c/o A Paz e Possivel em Timor Leste,
Rua de Campolide, 215-4D
1000 Lisboa,
Portugal

C.C. Comissão dos Direitos do Povo Maubere